

GUIDED PRACTICE

ESTIMATED TIME



15 MIN

Animal Behaviors

GROUPING

small groups

MATERIALS PER GROUP

flash cards

OBJECTIVE

Students will identify and classify behaviors as inherited or learned behaviors.

TEACHER BACKGROUND

The scientific study of animal behavior is called ethology. Scientists study animal behavior to understand how organisms live. They apply their findings to save endangered species. Animal behaviors are often prompted by stimuli. Stimuli could be external stimuli, such as a smell or threatening sound from enemies. It also can be internal stimuli, such as thirst and hunger. Animal behavior is affected by two factors: genes and environment.

ADVANCE PREPARATIONS

- Gather the materials for this practice.
- Prepare stations with the materials.
- Divide children into small groups and assign each group to a station.

GUIDED PRACTICE

MATERIALS

flash cards

Animal Behaviors

Ask a question: How are inherited and learned behaviors different?

- 1 Look at the pictures.
- 2 Discuss what the animals are doing on each card.
- 3 Which animals have inherited behavior? **Record.**

Which animals have learned behavior? **Record** in the chart on the next page.

180

SCIENCE SKILLS

By the end of this practice, students will have used the following science skills:

- Observe
- Record observations
- Classify
- Draw a conclusion



MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY

Use the Multiple Intelligence Activity for this lesson to enrich and engage the different learning styles of each student.

Inherited Behavior	Learned Behavior

- 4 **Draw a conclusion.**
How are inherited and learned behaviors different?

STEPS

- 1 Have students observe the pictures on the flash cards.
- 2 Discuss with students what behavior each animal does.
- 3 Help students classify the behaviors into learned and inherited behaviors.

Record

Inherited behavior	Learned behavior
geese flying	dolphin jumping through a ring
kittens feeding	chimpanzee using a stick
chipmunk eating	dog using its paw to shake hands

- 4 **Draw a conclusion.** Encourage students to answer the question at the end of the activity. **Possible answer:** An animal is born with an inherited behavior. This is not a behavior the animal needs to learn. An animal must be taught how to do a learned behavior. A behavior is learned from an animal's interactions with the environment.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Students will identify and classify the behaviors shown on the flash cards. They will find that kittens, birds, and chipmunks mostly follow inherited behavior, while dolphins, chimpanzees, and dogs can learn behavior.

EXPLANATION

Inherited behaviors are inherited from parents and not learned. Learned behaviors are taught to the animal, not inherited.

CONCLUSION

Animal behaviors can be classified into inherited and learned behavior.